

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please revise paragraph [0024] of the specification as follows:

[0024] The vibration-proof structure of this starting gear transmission device 15 will be described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3. The above idle gear 21 turns on the first shaft 17 and can slide in the axial direction between the first and second fixed walls 10a and 10b. A wave washer 31 which is wavy in a peripheral direction is interposed between one end face of the idle gear 21 and a plane washer 33 placed on the end face of the second fixed wall 10b to surround the first shaft 17. The wave washer 31 is compressed by a predetermined amount between the end face of the idle gear 21 and the plane washer 33 placed on the end face of the second fixed wall 10b, whereby a predetermined set load for pressing the idle gear 21 toward the first fixed wall 10a is applied. As can be seen in FIG. 2, waved washer 31 includes first and second surfaces 31a, 31b, and is disposed directly around an outer circumference 71o the first gear shaft 17 with the first surface 31a thereof directly facing the idle gear 21. In addition, the plane washer 33 is disposed directly around the outer circumference 17o the first gear shaft 17, and includes a first side 33a with an inner surface portion 33i directly facing a second surface 31b of the wave washer (elastic member) 31, and an outer surface portion 33o disposed radially outward with respect to the inner surface portion 33i and directly facing ends 30e of the cylinder portion 30. When the wave washer (elastic member) 31 is in a compressed state, only the outer surface portion 33o is able to contact the ring-shaped end 30e of the cylinder

JMS/CTT/ktp

portion 30. As can be seen in FIG. 3, the inner-most perimeter 31Pin of the elastic member 31 is formed with a plurality of alternating first concave arc-shaped sections 31A1 each having a radius R1, and second concave arc-shaped sections 31A2 each having a radius R2,  $R2 > R1$ . Only the first arc-shaped sections 31A1 fit directly around an outer cylindrical surface of the first gear shaft 17. The elastic member 31 also is formed with a plurality of first flat sections 31F1 and a plurality of second flat sections 31F2, the first and second flat sections 31F1, 31F2 are arranged so as to alternate with each other in a circumferential direction of the elastic member 31. Regardless of the bending amount of the elastic member 31, the second flat sections 31F2 are disposed flush against a flat surface of the second fixed wall 10b. Also, regardless of the bending amount of the elastic member 31, the first flat sections 31F1 are substantially parallel to the second flat sections 31 F2. Further, as can be seen in FIG. 3, an outer perimeter 31Pout of the wave washer (elastic member) 31 has a circular shape when viewed in plan view, and an inner perimeter 31Pin of the elastic member 31 has a non-circular shape when viewed in plan view. Referring back to FIG. 2, it can be seen that a second side 33b of the plane washer 33 is larger than the end face of the second fixed wall 10b, and the end face of the second fixed wall 10b is smaller in diameter than an inner diameter of the ring-shaped end 30e of the cylindrical portion 30 formed on the first gear 21.